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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

March 8, 1993

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Room 222
Dockets #740

IN REPLY REFER TO:

92-235/57
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
402 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Helms:

This is in reply to your letter of January 29, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take your constituents' concerns into account when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Your constituents' letters will be included in the record of the proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Shiben
Chief, Land Mobile & Microwave Division
Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures

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JESSE HELMS
NORTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3301

February 17, 1993

PRB
92-235
740

Mrs. Linda Townsend
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 202
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Because of the desire of my office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached inquiry from Mr. Kenneth R. Steele, 6324 Stoney Point, Fayetteville, NC 28306 will be appreciated.

Please address your response to my Raleigh Office, P.O. Drawer 2888, Raleigh, N. C. 27602.

With kind regards.


U.S. Senator

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January 28, 1993

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Box 2888 Century Post Office
Raleigh, NC 27602

Dear Senator Helms:

I am a retired constituent of yours. I have enjoyed participating in and observing radio control hobbies (airplanes, boats and cars) for nearly 16 years. This pastime is very important to me. I am active in my local radio control club and have been alerted to a very disturbing situation which could have terrible consequences for all radio control enthusiasts.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. I am told that the proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are now available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will remain if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operations and bystanders and the protections of property. Many of our precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 to 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself (including many members of my family) and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Stale,